THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) UNESCO has conveyed its intention for a coordinated effort for natural disaster mitigation in the Indian Ocean region but no formal proposal has been received.

(b) No proposals have been received from the countries under reference. However, these countries have expressed their keenness to help India in setting up a Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean.

(c) and (d) India and Thailand are planning to set up their own National Tsunami Warning Systems as relevant to their needs. At present, there is no collaborative venture between the two countries and no details are available about the initiatives of the Government of Thailand.

Amount spent on scientific departments

†409. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Meteorological Department, Geophysics Research Institute and Vadia Institute of Himalayan Technolog together with the many universities are operating serveral earthquake monitoring centres all over the country;

(b) the amount being spent by Government on the said centres per annum;

(c) the reasons for the failure of all these monitoring centres in providing prior information about the Tsunami calamity and earthquake that hit Indonesia; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted by Government against failure in providing such information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount being spent by Government on these centres is approximately of Rs. 7.00 (seven) crores per annum.

(c) There is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

forecast the occurrence of earthquakes with regard to space, time and magnitude. The Tsunami that was generated on 26th December, 2004 was a consequence of a large magnitude under-sea earthquake which occurred well outside the Indian territory. The earthquake monitoring centres alone are not sufficient to provide prior Information about the Tsunamis. As there was no specific Tsunami Warning System in place for the Indian ocean region, prior information was not possible.

(d) Does not arise, Sir.

Changes occurring in weather condition

†410. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study is being carried out by the Government about the inter-relation between the changes occurred in weather conditions and devastating Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian scientists had warned about the dramatic changes in the weather conditions;

(d) if so, the reasons for not having any coordination between Government and scientists; and

(e) if not, the details of the efforts being made by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such information has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) India Meteorological Department is already maintaining a close co-ordination with all other research and operational agencies at national and international levels on climate change.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.